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perishable materials as the type of all, we may call the age of wood. Still further back must lie an age, as indefinite in duration as any, when man existed in his rudest condition, without arts of any kind, except such as he employed in common with lower animals, and this is the true primitive period. In such ages as these, just on the hither side of the indeterminate border which divides man from the brute creation, we must look for the beginnings of his mechanic arts, and with them of human history.

The discussion was participated in by Messrs. Rock, Mason, Fay, and others.

Mr. IVAN PETROFF then read part of his paper on "ALEUTIAN SONGS AND TRADITIONS," the hour of adjournment having arrived before he concluded.

SIXTY-SIXTH REGULAR MEETING, March 6th, 1883.

Colonel GARRICK MALLERY, President, in the chair.

The Secretary, in the absence of the Curator, reported the following gift:

From the ACADEMY.—Antiquarian proceedings from the Kongl. Vitterhets Historie och Antiquitets Akademiens of Stockholm, for the years 1872-'81, inclusive.

Mr. PETROFF then read the concluding portion of his paper on "ALEUTIAN SONGS AND MYTHS," of which an abstract has been submitted.

ABSTRACT.

After referring briefly to the origin of the term *Aleut*, which he traced to the Kamchatkan river Olutora, and a group of islands named after the same on the earliest Russian maps, the speaker expressed the opinion that the tribal name of the people should be pronounced Unangan instead of Unūngūn adopted by Mr. Dall, the former reading being also supported by the authority of Veniaminof. Mr. Petroff then recited some traditions of the origin of man, the earliest having been collected in 1815 by Louis Choris. Nearly all these myths represent at least one of the first couple as a dog, the children gradually assuming human shape. The myths also

agree in the statement that the first men came to the island from the north. During his travels in continental Alaska Mr. Petroff met with some traditions corroborative of those of the Aleut. The later traditions of the tribe refer chiefly to warlike expeditions to the northward and eastward. One myth relating the origin of the sea otter was pointed out as furnishing almost the only explanation of the universal belief in the abhorrence on the part of the sea otter of anything that might remind it of the sexual relations of man and woman.

Of Aleutian songs, Mr. Petroff said that though without rhythm or rhyme they were not without poetic thoughts and ideas. The lack of rhythm is made up by the addition of meaningless syllables, such as *ánga*, *ángara*, or *aiá*, at the end of each line. The most popular songs are those reciting the deeds of warriors or hunters; but a few specimens have been preserved of love songs, of which Mr. Petroff read both verbal and modified translations.

DISCUSSION.

Mr. GATSCHET inquired whether the speaker found actual consonance and metre, or only the prosodic accent and assonance.

Mr. PETROFF repeated that lack of rhythm was made up by the addition of syllables at the end of each line, to which reference had been made in the paper.

THE CARSON FOOTPRINTS.

Mr. GILBERT spoke with reference to the supposed human footprints discovered at Carson, Nevada, communicating some of the results reached by his assistant, Mr. I. C. Russell, who visited the locality for the purpose of ascertaining the geological relations of the deposit bearing the impressions. During a period of geological time, which is certainly not remote, the valleys of Nevada have been occupied by an extensive system of lakes, and these are believed by all who have investigated them to have been the contemporaries of the ancient glaciers of the Sierra Nevada and Wasatch, and therefore of Quaternary age. Mr. Russell's investigations led him to assign to the Carson strata an earlier date. Without considering the palæontological evidence he ranks them Tertiary; thus according with Professors Marsh and Cope, who refer the mammalian fossils to the Upper Pliocene.

To account for the peculiar footprints Mr. Russell suggested the same explanation which had been, unknown to him, proposed by

Professor Marsh, namely, that they were produced by a gigantic edentate ; but no edentate bones have as yet been recognized in the fossils of the locality.

Prof. MASON then inquired whether the Secretary had not entertained the belief that the impressions were human, as an article in the *Revue d'Anthropologie*, professing to quote Dr. Hoffman, stated them to be those of Tertiary man.

The Secretary replied that the paper which had been presented last autumn, immediately after his return from Carson, contained no such statement, but called attention to the striking similarity between the fossil impressions and those of the ordinary imprint of a foot incased in a moccasin or shod with a sandal. The error in the *Revue* was made after the paper left the author's hands. The Secretary remarked further that a cast of a typical impression had been on exhibition before the Society during the evening on which that paper was read, and every feature was characteristic of a human foot, though the belief was not entertained that primitive man had produced it. Some of the impressions at Carson are over six inches in depth, and yet in none of them is there any appearance that might suggest the presence of claws, such as would naturally exist in animals of the sloth family. Neither was there any evidence of an oblique indentation caused by the outer edge of the foot being put down first, as we find the sloths walk ; a habit which no doubt existed to some extent in the fossil forms.

SIXTY-SEVENTH REGULAR MEETING, March 20th, 1883.

Colonel GARRICK MALLERY, the President, occupied the Chair.

The Council reported, through its Secretary, the following names of foreign anthropologists who had been duly elected Honorary Members. The list, as read by Professor Mason, is as follows :

ANOUTCHINE, DEMETRI, Moscow, Russia.

BEDDOE, Dr. JOHN, Bristol, England.

BASTIAN, Prof. ADOLF, Berlin, Prussia.

BUSK, Prof. GEORGE, London, England.

CAPELLINI, Prof. G., Bologna, Italy.

CARTAILHAC, EMILE, Toulouse, France.

CHANTRE, ERNEST, Lyons, France.